Christmas at Anfield | LFC 125: the official book | Shanks: the movie | Under-23s | All aboard the team bus!

LIVERPOOLFC



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DANNY INGS EXCLUSIVE
"I'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO GIVE TO THIS CLUB"

WHEN KENNY MET FERGIE
THE BEST PICTURES FROM HIS BIG DAY AT ANFIELD



HUGE AWAY WINS AND HOW THEY HAPPENED

GEMMA BONNER
THE CENTURION SKIPPER WHO'S SEEN IT ALL



HEY JOE

GOMEZ AND THE FUTURE STARS OF LFC

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The boss watches his side on the front foot at Anfield – now meet the players aiming to be a part of LFC's exciting future as we put the focus on youth

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FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise



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Editor David Cottrell **Assistant Editor** William Hughes **Art Editor** Neil Haines **Writer** Chris McLoughlin **Production Editor** Michael McGuinness
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea, Ryan Dobney **Photography** Press Association, Getty Images, Mirrorpix, Silverhub, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd. Published by Sport Media **Managing Director** Steve Hanrahan **Commercial Director** Will Beedles **Senior Executive Art Editor** Rick Cooke **Executive Editor** Paul Dove **Marketing & Communications Manager** Claire Brown **Printed by** William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com. To subscribe call **0845 143 0001** or visit **www.sportmediashop.com**



THE WALKING REDS Hallowe'en this year also happened to be the night before Liverpool's UEFA Champions League group match with Maribor at Anfield, with the Slovenian side determined to avoid another horror show following their 7-0 defeat in the first game. Here Mo Salah and Jürgen Klopp



lead out the first-team squad for an evening training session at Melwood – the timing designed to replicate 'live' match conditions as much as possible. It clearly did the trick and worked a treat, as Liverpool scored three without reply to maintain top-spot in the table with two further fixtures remaining.



BUBBLE RAP Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's goal against West Ham United at the London Stadium – greeted with delight from the travelling Reds contingent – made it 3-1 on the day, and when Mo Salah got the fourth it added up to ten goals in three games over the space of nine days for Liverpool.



It also meant that for the 14th time under Jürgen Klopp the Reds had scored more than four goals in a single Premier League game; only Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur (both 16) had done so on more occasions in that same period. "Our counter-attacking was pretty perfect," said the manager.


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100s of exclusive LFC gifts available in store and online.
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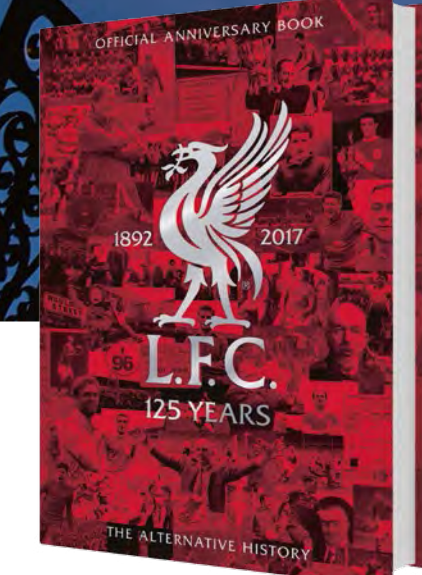
A fan poses for a special selfie with Shanks. December marks the anniversary of the Scot's arrival at Anfield. In what year did he join the club? **Answer on page 98**

Great Scots celebrated and the Reds captured on social media

LIVERPOOL

125: THE BOOK

It's a history of LFC with a difference in this anniversary year



Another book about the history of Liverpool FC? Five European Cups. Eighteen league titles. Bill, Bob and Joe. Rome and Istanbul. You've heard it all before. Or have you?

To mark the 125th anniversary of Liverpool Football Club, the team behind your very own Liverpool FC monthly magazine and matchday programme have done things a little differently.

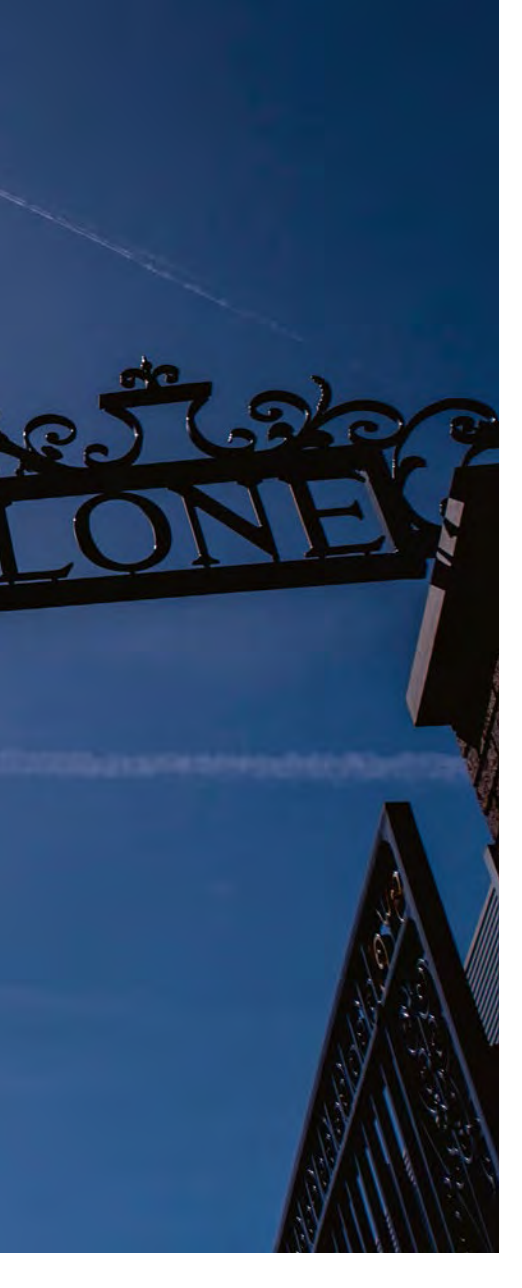
We've produced *LFC 125: The Alternative History* – a 464-page book celebrating the last century-and-a-quarter of life at Anfield, but told in a unique way.

Split into 125 chapters, it isn't a chronological trawl from 1892 to 2017. Nor is it a comprehensive compendium detailing everything that's ever happened at LFC since it was founded by John Houlding.

Instead it's a collection of memories, moments and stories told from new angles and different perspectives that mixes star names, famous matches and legendary managers with quirky occurrences, humorous happenings and some of the lesser-known figures who have all played parts in shaping the history of our football club. Including...

■ The Liverpool striker who netted 18 goals in a youth-team game.





■ How a Reds star missed half-a-season after being shot by his athletics trainer.
■ Why one LFC full-back rugby-tackled a cow before an FA Cup semi-final.
■ The Liverpool player who only made six appearances but won six medals.
■ Why 17,000 fans didn't turn up for a Saturday 3pm kick-off against Charlton Athletic.
■ Plus Jürgen Klopp on why it is a bad idea for any of his players to break his glasses!

Everybody you'd expect to find in a Liverpool FC history book is included – just not necessarily in the way you might think – but the spotlight is also shone in many different directions with LFC's wartime heroes, Anfield pubs and the men who made the Shankly Gates all featuring alongside everything from kits and Kopites to training-ground tales and tactical triumphs.

It's the story of Liverpool FC's history, but not as you know it...

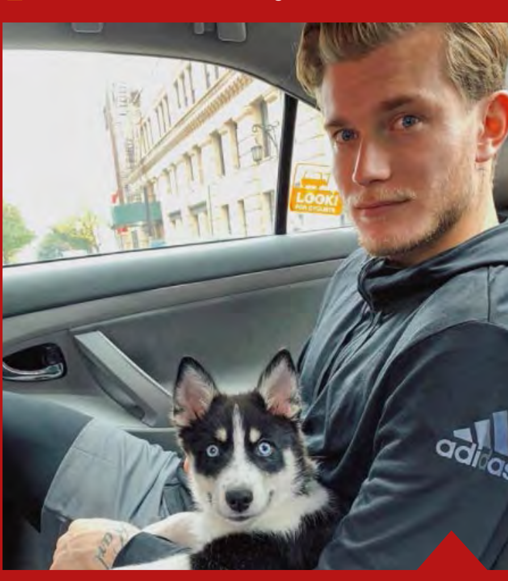
LFC 125: The Alternative History (RRP £20.00) is available from club stores or by visiting store.liverpoolfc.com.

Reds ON INSTAGRAM

The best LFC-related posts from a young Gini to an old favourite



@lfcretail TEE || CXXV = 125 years of #LFC, £25.



@lorisk21
On the way to the gym w/ my little friend



@stevengerrard
Congratulations lads fantastic achievement special mention to our @rhianbrewster



@gwijnaldum #25 #throwbackthursday



@liverpoolfc
Harry Wilson collects his September #PL2 Player of the Month award



@luchogarcia14
Ghosts will be Ghosts !! Happy Halloween everybody !!#Halloween2017 #Memories #LoveIt

FOOTBALL

Midway through last month it was official: Anfield's Centenary Stand was renamed The Kenny Dalglish Stand in recognition of one of the club's greatest servants, with a ceremony taking place 40 years after Kenny's association with LFC began following his move from Celtic in 1977.

ROYALTY

Stars past and present were out in force when LFC officially unveiled the Kenny Dalglish Stand



Accompanied by his family, friends, former team-mates and Liverpool dignitaries past and present, the 66-year-old was honoured for his services as player, manager and non-executive board director and said he felt "hugely honoured to be recognised by Liverpool in this way."



Own a piece of LFC history...

with the LFC Foundation Monthly Shirt Auction and help raise vital funds for the Club's official charity.

To celebrate the Club's 125th anniversary, each month throughout the season we'll auction a special 17/18 Home Team shirt signed by a unique selection of Liverpool Football Club's legendary players and managers, past and present.

Special collections will include 2005 Istanbul Winners, Midfield Generals and Shankly's Greats.

Funds raised will help support the work of the LFC Foundation and its mission to create life changing opportunities for children and young people.

You can find out more about the work of the LFC Foundation by visiting www.liverpoolfc.com/foundation

To take part in this month's auction please visit: www.charitystars.com/LFCFoundation



Among the guests were Sir Bobby Charlton, just turned 80, and former Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. He and Kenny were fierce rivals as managers but the two shared a joke and Dalglish said: "He represents his club fantastically well and I've tried to do my best at my club."


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Speaking on behalf of FSG, John W Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon said: "We know as one of the ultimate team players in Liverpool's illustrious history Kenny will be uncomfortable with the attention but it is wholly merited, particularly in the club's 125th anniversary year."

The new film about Bill Shankly ticks all the boxes, say the critics in both Liverpool and Scotland

"FOOTBALL'S GREATEST STORY"

The world premiere of *Shankly: Nature's Fire* took place last month at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall and it's been hailed as a resounding success.

The *Liverpool Echo* commented: "Thirty-six years after he drew his last breath on this earth, Bill Shankly is still commanding standing ovations. His latest came at the conclusion of the world premiere [and] it was warranted.

"The 90-minute documentary style biopic drew a near full-house. You've heard many of the anecdotes, sayings and quips before, but they still elicit knowing smiles and nods. And the biopic, produced by Mike Todd and Pete Hooton, is delivered in a simple, no-nonsense style Shankly would have approved of."

The *Scotsman* newspaper's review called Shanks "one of the most mesmeric figures in the history of 20th century Scotland" and described the film as "a long overdue retrospective...

"Ultimately it looks to pinpoint the alchemy that caused an entire city to fall under his spell. There is no definitive answer, though the search for illumination is instructive. Out of a cast of erudite contributors, the former Scotland forward Ian St John comes closest to articulating Shankly's mysterious pull: 'You learned from him that it was about giving rather than taking', he explains."

For director Todd, making the film had been a journey not just into the legacy of Shanks but the soul of the game itself. "We're in a new age of football and people want to understand its roots, so it's important that Nature's Fire is accessible even for those who don't know the scale of this legend," he recently told the Liverpool FC matchday programme.

"There's something about the culture of football in Liverpool which makes it a fascinating place to look at. And it's Bill's relationship with the people of Liverpool that makes it, for me, football's greatest story.

"I was continually amazed by the willingness of people to speak as soon as you mentioned Bill's name: Ian St John, Denis Law, Roger Hunt, Kevin Keegan, and Steven Gerrard among them. They gave up their time straightaway, such was their affection for Shankly. They all had such profound admiration for him. It was a remarkable phenomenon."



WHAT'S



ON: NOV



SEVILLE SERVICE

Matchday 5 of the UEFA Champions League takes the Reds to Andalusia for their first-ever game at Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium on Tuesday 21 November 2017.

It was 2-2 when the teams met at Anfield in September the first game of Group E, with the Reds dominating but Sevilla having a late chance to win it, and the result in Spain is set to have a large bearing on who will progress to the knockout stages in the new year.

The 42,000-capacity Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan was named after a former club president and designed by the architect behind Real Madrid's Bernabeu, Manuel Munoz Monasterio.

The Spanish national team have played here over 20 times and remain unbeaten. Historically Sevilla's home record in Europe is good, too, although they have lost to Juventus and Manchester City in recent years. This is their fifth group-stage campaign and their third in a row.

The Reds will head for Spain a few days after former centre-back Mauricio Pellegrino returns to Anfield on Saturday 18 November with his Southampton team for a Premier League fixture.

The Argentine made 13 appearances under Rafael Benitez in 2004/05 and will be managing against Liverpool for the first time. Premier League champions Chelsea visit Anfield a week later during a busy month which concludes with a trip to Stoke City on Wednesday 29 November.

Jürgen Klopp and Eduardo Berizzo meet again in November



LADIES DOUBLE HEADER

Liverpool Ladies play back-to-back home games at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes this month. First up is an FA Women's Super League 1 clash with Birmingham City on Saturday 11 November (kick-off 5.30pm) before the Reds continue their Continental Cup campaign against FA WSL 2 side Aston Villa on Wednesday 15 November (7pm).

Anniversaries and birthdays



Three for Yossi

It's 10 years since the Reds defeated Besiktas 8-0 in a Champions League group game at Anfield.

The team from Istanbul are a very different proposition these days, having won away at both Porto and Monaco in the 2017/18 Champions League groups and frightened the life out of RB Leipzig with the sheer noise at their new stadium.

But back on 6 November 2007 they arrived on Merseyside as very much the whipping boys in a group featuring Liverpool, Porto and Marseille – all previous winners of the competition – but they'd still beaten the Reds 2-1 in the first game in Turkey a fortnight earlier.

That night, Liverpool had registered 28 shots on goal and scored one; this time it was 30 shots on goal and eight in the net. It took 20 minutes for the goal rush to start, with Peter Crouch firing home at the second attempt. Then came a 24-minute hat-trick from man-of-the-match Yossi Benayoun, followed by four goals in the last 20 minutes from Steven Gerrard, Ryan Babel (two) and Crouch again.

Babel, of course, is in fine form for Besiktas these days. On this record-breaking evening he was a substitute in what was also a 50th Champions League game in charge of the Reds for Rafael Benitez.

Jim Furnell **80** on 23 Nov
Ron Yeats 80 **on 12 Nov** (right)
Ian Ross **70** on 26 Nov
Phil Babb **47** on 30 Nov
Steve Heighway **70** on 25 Nov
Xabi Alonso **36** on 25 Nov
Georginio Wijnaldum **27** on 11 Nov
Ryan Kent **21** on 11 Nov
Patrik Berger **44** on 10 Nov
Ovie Ejaria **20** on 18 Nov
John Barnes **54** on 7 Nov
Peter Thompson **75** on 27 Nov
Bobby Graham **73** on 22 Nov



2 years since the Reds won 4-1 at Manchester City to claim their first away win under Jürgen Klopp on 21 November 2015.
41 years since Joey Jones made his LFC debut on 9 November 1976.
47 years since John Toshack joined from Cardiff on 11 November 1970.
50 years since Liverpool defeated TSV Munich 8-0 in a European Fairs Cup tie on 7 November 1967.
65 years since Ronnie Moran made his LFC debut on 22 November 1952.

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST

Sat 12	Watford (A)	3-3
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) UCL	2-1
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)	1-0
Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) UCL	4-2
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)	4-0

SEPTEMBER

Sat 9	Manchester City (A)	0-5
Wed 13	**Sevilla** (H) UCL	2-2
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)	1-1
Tue 19	Leicester City (A) CC3	0-2
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)	3-2
Tue 26	Spartak Moscow (A) UCL	1-1

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)	1-1
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)	0-0
Tue 17	Maribor (A) UCL	7-0
Sun 22	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-4
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)	3-0

NOVEMBER

Wed 1	**Maribor** (H) UCL	3-0
Sat 4	West Ham United (A)	4-1
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)	
Tue 21	Sevilla (A) UCL	
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)	
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)	

DECEMBER

Sat 2	Brighton (A)
Wed 6	**Spartak Moscow** (H) UCL
Sun 10	**Everton** (H)
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)
Sun 17	AFC Bournemouth (A)
Fri 22	Arsenal (A)
Tue 26	**Swansea City** (H)
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)

JANUARY

Mon 1	Burnley (A)
Sa 6/Su 7	FA Cup 3rd round (TBC)
Sun 14	**Manchester City** (H)
Mon 22	Swansea City (A)
Sa 27/Su 28	FA Cup 4th round (TBC)
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)

FEBRUARY

Sat 3	**Tottenham** (H)
Sat 10	Southampton (A)
Tu 13/We 14	UCL last 16 1st leg
Sa 17/Su 18	FA Cup 5th round (TBC)
Tu 20/We 21	UCL last 16 1st leg
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)

MARCH

Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)
Tu 6/We 7	UCL last 16 2nd leg
Sa 10/Su 11	FA Cup 6th round (TBC)
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)
Tu 13/We 14	UCL last 16 2nd leg
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)

APRIL

Tu 3/We 4	UCL quarter-final 1st leg
Sat 7	Everton (A)
Tu 10/We 11	UCL quarter-final 2nd leg
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)
Sat 21	West Brom (A)
Sa 21/Su 22	FA Cup semi-final (TBC)
Tu 24/We 25	UCL semi-final 1st leg
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)

MAY

Tu 1/We 2	UCL semi-final 2nd leg
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)
Sat 19	FA Cup final (TBC)
Sat 26	UCL final (Kiev)

*UCL = UEFA Champions League


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18
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11
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Mo Salah scores again. By early November the Egyptian had already scored 12 goals for the club. How many games did it take him to reach his dozen? **Answer on page 98**

LFC's speed kings plus a focus on our outstanding youngsters

FOOTBALL

RED MARAUDERS

Keeping up with The Ox, Mo and Mane as two hit the ground running and one returns to first-team action as if he'd never been away



AWESOME OX

While Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain heaps praise on Mo Salah, the boss is predicting great things for the former Arsenal man.

The Ox says of Salah: "For someone to have that goal return so quickly, settling into a new team as well, is amazing. But if you speak to Mo, he's not getting carried away, he doesn't get too excited and he wants to keep doing it. That's the kind of guy he is – he wants to always achieve more.

"Hopefully he can keep doing what he's been doing and adding the goals. It's important that all of us around him support with goals as well, but Mo has been on fire and I hope he can continue that way."

Meanwhile Jürgen Klopp has praised Alex's attitude and desire since his summer move: "The start was very intense for him, completely different to the things he's used to. He did really well. I know for these offensive skilled players, how difficult it is to have me all the time shouting! I just like this player because he is already experienced but he is so open to what we do.

"He needs to get used to the intensity that we ask. It's not that Arsenal didn't – they play fantastic football. But we are really on it with these counter-pressing things and the switch immediately to make the break. He knew when he came that this will happen. He will be a really important player for us."

MAGNIFICENT MO

The international break arrived with Mohamed Salah on 12 goals for Liverpool in all competitions – and awesome return that has surprised even his manager if not the player himself.

The Egyptian international says: "I had confidence from the beginning [when I joined the club] and I was happy to come here after two great seasons in Rome. We have great players upfront and a great team. Everyone wants to give everything and I'm happy that everyone is doing well. I'm happy for the team."

Boss Jürgen Klopp has revealed that the opportunity to sign Mo a was a no-brainer: "We watched him so often and the scouting department was really behind me. When you find a situation where everybody who is doing the job agrees about a player then you can be sure it will work.

"He is a real goal-threat. He's an offensive midfield player who is more a striker, that's true, and he needed to adapt a little bit to the different style. He played very often as a second striker at Roma with [Edin] Dzeko. Against West Ham recently he had the position, obviously he likes it. We will see what we make of it.

"I didn't think about him scoring 12 goals or whatever in 17 games [but] I hope he's not finished now!"

SENSATIONAL SADIO

Sadio Mane's awesome comeback match from injury, the 4-1 win for Liverpool away at West Ham, has drawn praise from his manager and an LFC legend.

Jürgen Klopp described the Senegalese striker as "a naturally fit player, a little machine" and said he made the decision to play him at the London Stadium after monitoring his progress in training: "You can see he starts enjoying the intensity, that's why we decided we should try it."

Steven Gerrard added: "He's awesome, he's great to watch. I'm not saying it from a biased point of view [but] he's the type of player you'd go and pay big money to go and watch every single week because he's great on the eye. He's so quick, he makes things happen.

"For someone so quick and the speed that he does it at, to have that touch and the finesse as well is just world-class."

“I’M FIT AND READY AND I’M DESPERATE TO GET OUT THERE AND DO WELL FOR THE TEAM, THE MANAGER AND MOST ESPECIALLY THE FANS”

Back in action and scoring goals, Danny Ings talks exclusively about making up for lost time





Danny on target again for the Under-23s

They say all good things come to he who waits and every Liverpool supporter will be hoping that is true for Danny Ings.

After a bright start to his Anfield career he damaged the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during Jürgen Klopp's first training session at the club back in October 2015. Then, after working tirelessly to return to action, he sustained serious damage to his other knee in a match against Tottenham – in only his third appearance since he'd resumed playing – in October 2016.

Since last summer he's been redoubling his efforts to achieve his Liverpool dreams. Now, with the clocks going back and the nights getting shorter, he says he has seldom felt better.

On the Fifth of November he provided some footballing fireworks to back up that assertion, playing for the Under-23s in a Premier League Cup match against Bristol City at Prenton Park. He scored a hat-trick inside 21 minutes and finished with a four-goal haul in the Reds' 7-0 defeat of the Robins.

Although Danny was never under any illusions that the road to recovery would be anything other than a long one, the 25-year-old has continued to exude positive energy around Melwood.

During the close-season he spent every week bar one at LFC's training headquarters to work on his rehabilitation and spoke of wanting "patience, not pity" from people as he took his programme step by step. But if patience is a virtue, he admits it is not one he readily possesses.

"Patience has always been a struggle for me over the years because I want everything yesterday. It's just the way that I've always been since I was a kid. But obviously with the current situation, patience is vital for me at the moment.

"I've done everything I can to get into the condition that I'm in now which is probably the best shape that I've been in for a long, long time. Now that I'm fit and I'm ready, it's about being even more patient for that opportunity and making sure that I'm ready to take that chance when it comes."

I'M PROBABLY IN THE BEST SHAPE I'VE BEEN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME BUT IT'S ABOUT BEING PATIENT

An important step to that end has been regular appearances for the Under-23s. Coach Neil Critchley praises Ings' attitude and positivity around his squad elsewhere in this issue and, for his part, the forward has enjoyed the experience.

"It's so important," he says. "From getting the feel of the games and the feel of the positions on the pitch again to getting that contact from the





Evening training session at Melwood

opposition and switching your mind onto the different situations that you can come across in games…it's vital for me.

"While I've enjoyed training at Melwood every day, I've not been getting that game at the end of the week so it's important that I keep pushing and keep getting as many minutes under my belt as I can, and that's what I'm aiming to do.

"Going and playing with the Under-23s is great. It's good to go and play football, it doesn't matter what level it is. As long as I'm playing and improving in every single game, getting better physically and mentally, then it's a huge positive for me moving forward."

Critchley has said that if Ings is guilty of anything, it is that he is often too hard on himself. The no28 smiles when that suggestion is put to him, explaining it's just the way he is wired. "I guess it is about getting that balance right. I'm always hard on myself because I want the best for myself and I'll always push myself to be better every day. It's the way that I am…it's the way that I'm built.

"With each 23s game that I'm playing in, each day that I'm training at Melwood with the lads, I know I'm taking massive steps towards becoming better than I was before I got injured. As long as I can build on that and keep learning from the lads that I'm playing with week in, week out, then if that opportunity comes up – which I'm sure it will at some point – I'll be ready to go in and contribute to the team and to the club."

As he poses for photographs to accompany this interview, Ings engages in some friendly wise-cracking with Adam Lallana. Training with the rest of the first-team squad on a regular basis and aiming to reach the levels of intensity required under Klopp and his coaching team, has also been crucial to his recovery – mentally as well as physically.

BEING AT MELWOOD KEEPS YOU FRESH AND UPDATED WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S NEEDED

"Of course, having that contact with the lads at Melwood and that training ground banter is important. What I was craving the most after being sidelined for such a long time was to be around the lads every day, and to get that feeling of coming into Melwood knowing that you're going to have a good training session and be able to work as hard as you can, is great.

"Now that I've got that back, it was a huge relief in itself. Obviously now I want to build that up, take more steps forward and get more minutes under my belt. I know that it's going to take time but we've got a hell of a lot of quality here so it's great to learn from top players every day.

"The way that we play is so exciting. It's really good to watch – especially for the attacking boys – and if I wasn't training with the lads every day at Melwood, I'd start to think: are you learning the methods; are you learning what the manager wants and what the staff want? Being around that every day keeps you fresh and updated with everything that's needed from you as a player and also what's needed for the team. Being at Melwood with everyone is a massive positive."

Reporting to the West Derby nerve-centre each morning has also helped facilitate a regular dialogue with Klopp whose ongoing support has been unequivocal. "You can't be despondent when you've been out for such a long time but you also can't expect to be in the manager's plans all of a sudden. It takes time, it takes practice, and it takes learning of his methods.

"I've not had anywhere near as much time working with him as the other boys have. I appreciate that and I'm willing to do all I can to understand those methods. Everybody knows the work-ethic that I bring on and off the field and I'm


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doing my best to learn every single day to get into the best shape I can be in every possible way."

A major fillip came in September when he replaced Gini Wijnaldum for the final 17 minutes of the Carabao Cup tie at Leicester City. It was his first action for the senior side in almost eleven months. "It was mixed emotions that night really. You want to get the win and for it to be the perfect night, but it wasn't to be in the end. But on a personal note, it was great to be back part of it."

The forward's rehab involved many lonely hours unseen by anyone other than physio Matt Konopinski and the club's medical team.

He is thankful for the strong support network he has had around him but also points out that the incredible backing he has received from Liverpool fans has helped spur him on during the difficult days.

"Since I came to the club I've always had a very, very close connection with the fans and they've been great in supporting me all the way through this process, so to repay them would be great.

"Their support has helped to keep me going during the tough times. When you are at such a big club like this, there are pressures and everything that comes with that. But, credit to the fans, they have been so understanding in the process that I've gone through and I haven't had any negativity whatsoever. Everyone that I bump into or speak to has always been positive and looking forward to trying to get me back into the fold, so I can't stress enough how much I appreciate that and how good the fans have been with me."

Now the former Bournemouth and Burnley frontman is ready to take the next step in his bid to feature in Klopp's side on a more regular basis. "It has been a huge test mentally. Having my dream move to come here to Liverpool and then break into the side was fantastic, but to then not be anywhere close to that since with the injuries has been a huge test for me and my character.

THE FANS HAVE BEEN SO UNDERSTANDING AND I CAN'T STRESS HOW MUCH IT MEANS

"But one thing it has done is make me stronger and make me appreciate the club that I'm at more than anything. All of that is behind me now. I don't want it to be doom and gloom. I want everything to be positive now because I'm at the end of that tough period now. It's all positive and I'm moving forward."

In the space of eight days during October 2015 he scored in a Merseyside derby and made his England debut, replacing Harry Kane in a Euro 2016 qualifying win against Lithuania in Vilnius. One target he has for the year 2018 is playing in the Champions League.

"That's another dream that I had when I was a kid. To play Champions League football is something every aspiring footballer hopes to experience. The team are looking well-placed to reach the knockout stages in the new year so if we can do that, it would be massive for me if I could be part of the manager's squad when he re-names it.

"To be part of that would be massive for me on a personal note and for my career so it's definitely a target. It's not unrealistic. I believe in myself and I believe I can play in this team."

Having only turned 25 in the summer, Danny still has a decade or more of football ahead of him. "After the last two years I don't feel 25! But I know that I'm still young and I've still got a lot to give to this football club. I'm desperate to get out there and do well for the team, for the manager and most especially for the fans.

"The one thing that I've always promised myself from a young age is to never give up and never do something if I'm going to walk away from it and not give it my best shot.

"I've had challenges and tough periods at every club that I've been, but I've always kept working and working and working and eventually an opportunity has always been given to me. Hopefully, the same will be the case here at Liverpool. It's such a huge club with absolutely amazing players and supporters.

"It's great to be a part of and I'm here to give it my everything."



Eyes on the ball

Words: William Hughes


28
BETVICTOR

DANNY INGS: THE STORY SO FAR



Danny makes his debut for Bournemouth aged 17 in 2009 and has a short spell on loan at Dorchester Town before returning to score eight goals in 23 starts in League One as the Cherries reach the play-off semi-finals in season 2010/11.



He signs for Burnley, then in the Championship, in the summer of 2011, where he links up again with former Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe. When strikers Jay Rodriguez and Charlie Austin leave for Southampton and QPR respectively, Danny becomes first-choice upfront alongside Sam Vokes, and scores 21 goals in 40 appearances as the Clarets win promotion to the Premier League in 2013/14. He is also called up for England's Under-21s.



Ings joins Liverpool in July 2015. When it comes to choosing his shirt number, plenty are available – including seven and eight – but he opts for 28 instead, explaining: "I would make sure I am established before taking any of those numbers. It's such a huge club [and] I'm going to work my socks off to earn that kind of number. For now I'll take a high number and work hard."

Danny scores his first Reds goal against Norwich City at Anfield in September 2015, in front of the Kop. He nets again, against Carlisle United in the League Cup then versus Everton in the Goodison Park derby when he heads home from a James Milner corner.



After his goal against the Toffees comes an international break and Danny makes his senior England debut against Lithuania, coming on as a substitute for Harry Kane in a 3-0 Euro 2016 qualifying win in Vilnius.



In his first training session under new manager Jürgen Klopp, in October 2015, he suffers a cruciate knee-ligament injury. He follows his rehabilitation programme assiduously and eventually appears as a substitute against West Brom at the end of the season. Danny then features in pre-season in the summer of 2016 and plays against Derby County and Tottenham in the EFL Cup but picks up a knee injury in the latter tie that sidelines him for nine months.



On 19 September 2017 he comes on as a second-half substitute against Leicester City in the EFL Cup, and more recently scores four goals and provided two assists to inspire Liverpool's U23s to a 7-0 victory over Bristol City in the Premier League Cup.




SIXES &
SEV
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LFC



NK Maribor 0 Liverpool FC 7 (SEVEN) was quite a night in Slovenia: a record away win in Europe and also the sixteenth time a Reds team had scored six or more away from Anfield...

ENS (AND EIGHTS)



8-0

Dressed in gold shirts, everything Liverpool touched turned to goals at the Britannia Stadium en route to winning the League Cup in 2000/01, although it would've been different had second-tier Stoke City's Peter Thorne not hit the post with an open goal in front of him after a fourth-minute Pegguy Arphexad error.

Two minutes later Christian Ziege had side-footed Gerard Houllier's side ahead and the Potters soon cracked again with Vladimir Smicer, Markus Babbel and Robbie Fowler on target before the interval.

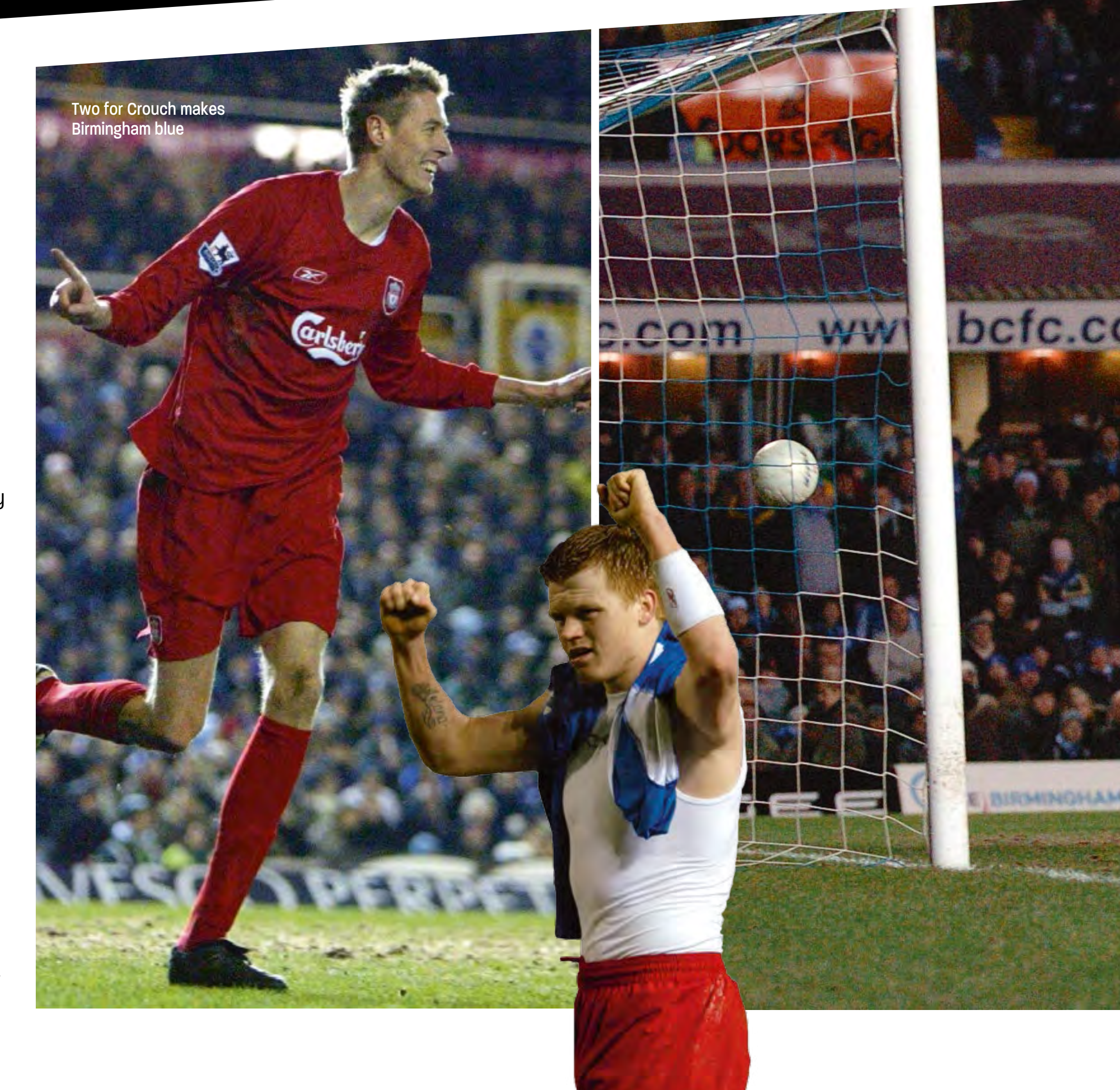
Sami Hyypia and Danny Murphy added a fifth and a sixth and by the time Fowler completed his hat-trick a line from Stoke's anthem – "forgive me Delilah, I just couldn't take any more" – seemed rather apt as the home fans were heading for the exits with glazed looks while Liverpool were heading for what remains the club's biggest away win in 125 years.

7-0

1896 was a leap year and Liverpool leapt to the top of the Division Two table on a rare 29 February game by thrashing Burton Swifts 7-0 at Peel Croft. Frank Becton and Jimmy Ross both hit hat-tricks, John McCartney notching the other, and John McKenna's men enjoyed their magnificent seven so much that they did it again less than a month later when they derailed Crewe Alexandra 7-0 at Nantwich Road, George Allen the hat-trick hero this time with Malcolm McVean (2), Joe McQue and Becton also netting.

It was another 110 years before the Reds would win 7-0 away from home again, in a March 2006 FA Cup tie at Birmingham City on a night when Momo Sissoko wore red-rimmed goggles to protect an eye injury.... but quickly ditched them after they steamed up.

Goals in the first five minutes from Hyypia and Peter Crouch saw some of the St Andrews crowd head home in time to watch Crouch get his 38th-minute second on TV while Blues



Two for Crouch makes Birmingham blue







It's Mo...or is it Bobby?

boss Steve Bruce looked increasingly distraught on the touchline as Fernando Morientes, John Arne Riise and Olivier Tebilly (own-goal) gave the Reds a big fat lead before Djibril Cisse eventually completed the scoring.

Which brings us to 2017 and a Liverpool team wearing that 'bold citrus' outsmarting Slovenian champions NK Maribor 7-0 in the Champions League on the day that tubes of orange Smarties were released for the first time (apparently).

Liverpool had never hit six away from home in Europe before, let alone seven, but first-half goals from Roberto Firmino, Philippe Coutinho and a Mo Salah double – the Egyptian's second coming after he just got the last touch ahead of Firmino – got the goal-fest started.

Firmino headed a second, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain struck his first Reds goal and then for the first time in LFC history there were two double-barrelled names on the scoresheet – and seven goals away from Anfield in Europe – when Trent Alexander-Arnold found the net.

"It's nice to write history, and it will probably be difficult to beat that," smiled Klopp. "It's quite rare that you win 7-0 but it shows again we did unbelievably well."











Cisse makes it seven on 89 minutes





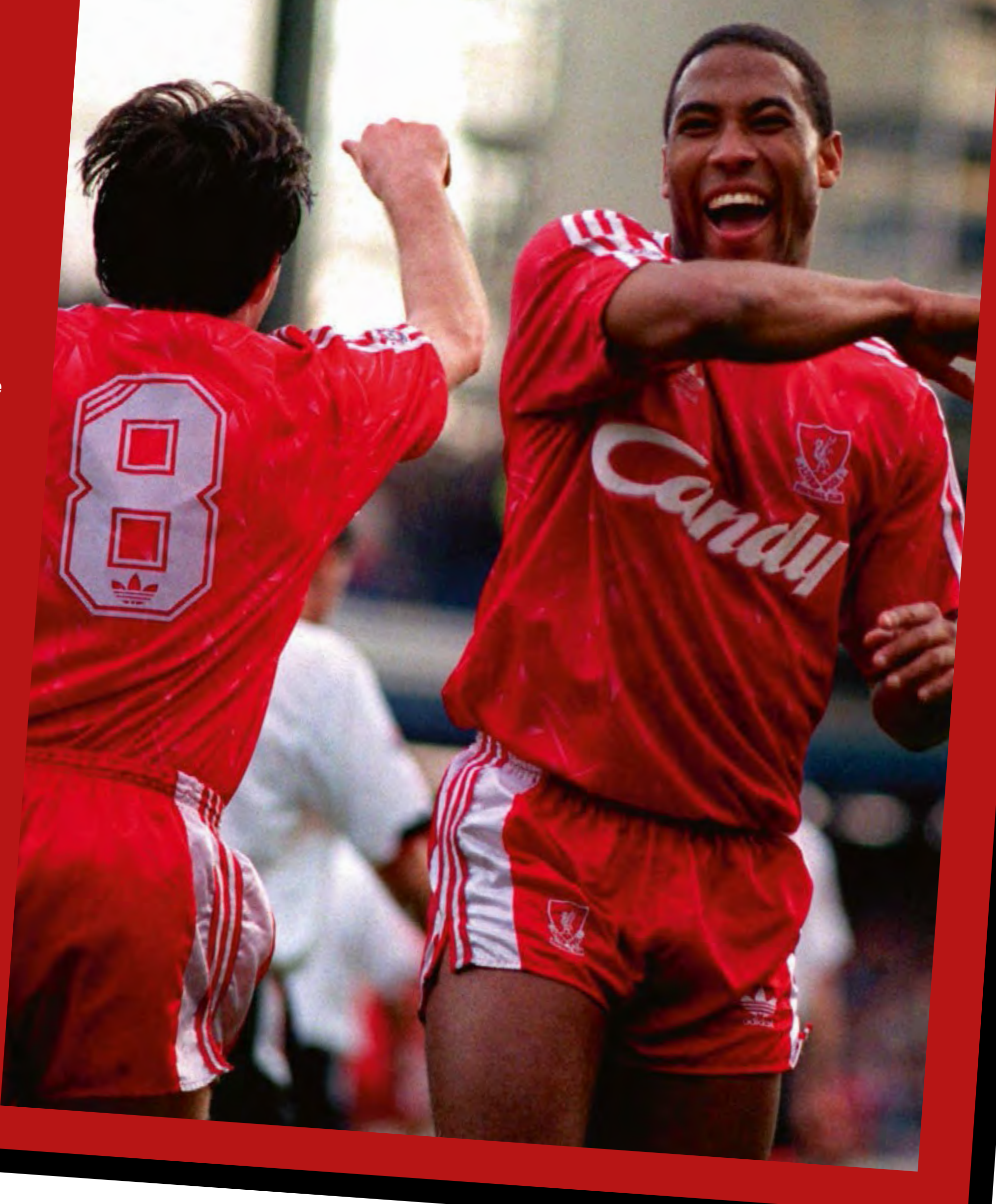
7-1

Liverpool racked up a baseball score at Derby County's Baseball Ground in March 1991 when there wasn't even a full-time manager in charge, with Ronnie Moran on caretaker duty following the shock resignation of Kenny Dalglish.

In their side the Rams had Peter Shilton in goal and future Reds Mark Wright and Dean Saunders, who cancelled out Jan Molby's penalty opener in the 19th minute with a spot-kick of his own. But the Reds were rampant with John Barnes scoring two and creating three of the other four.

Ian Rush got one, Steve Nicol netted a couple in the second half and it was Ray Houghton who completed the rout in the 90th minute after an outrageous back-heel assist from Barnes left the Derby defenders standing around like sheep grazing in the sunshine.

"We disintegrated," admitted 125-times capped England goalkeeper Shilton. "And, let's face it, it could have been a lot worse."




Stephen Wright congratulates Abel Xavier on his Ipswich opener







Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool experienced the joy of six on St Valentine's Day in 2016 when they said it with goals rather than roses at Villa Park.

There were six different names on the scoresheet, too, with Daniel Sturridge and James Milner bagging goals before the break and Emre Can, Divock Origi, Nathaniel Clyne and – memorably, as it was his only LFC goal – Kolo Toure heading home the sixth before celebrating wildly in front of the travelling Kop.

It was the fourth time the Reds had won an away Premier League game 6-0, and there was also a surprise scorer in the first when Gerard Houllier's team ploughed through the Tractor Boys at Portman Road back in February 2002.

Abel Xavier, signed from Everton, opened the scoring against Ipswich Town on his Liverpool debut and with doubles from Emile Heskey, Michael Owen and another from Sami Hyypia it was the first time the Redmen had









Kolo…Kolo Kolo…





won 6-0 on the road in a league game since 1968 when two goals apiece from Roger Hunt, Peter Thompson and Alun Evans had seen Wolves mauled at Molineux.

A future Everton legend netted in Liverpool's 6-0 League Cup win at Exeter's St James' Park in 1981, Kevin Sheedy grabbing one of his two LFC goals before he crossed Stanley Park a year later, while Ian Rush (two), Kenny Dalglish, Phil Neal and a Nicky Marker own goal also netted for Bob Paisley's boys.

Back to the Premier League era and in 2003 the Baggies of West Bromwich saw the ball 'boing' into their net at the Hawthorns six times with Owen getting four of them – including his 100th top-flight goal – and strike-partner Milan Baros Czech-ing in with the others.

Almost a decade to the day later in April 2013, Brendan Rodgers' Liverpool were on their way to six goals themselves at Newcastle's St James's Park with Daniel Agger getting the first, Jordan Henderson and Sturridge grabbing a brace each and Fabio Borini (who recently scored in the Milan derby) also on target. Not bad for a team that was without the suspended Luis Suarez.



Two for Sturridge on Tyneside



Milan helped batter the Baggies

6-1

As omens go it's an unusual one, but if Liverpool happen to win an away game 6-1 any time soon then expect it to be a good sign – the Reds have won two league titles and reached three cup finals in the four seasons when they've recorded 6-1 victories away from Anfield.

It all started in the first post-Second World War season of 1946/47 when George Kay's team put Grimsby Town in their plaice (ahem) at Blundell Park with Albert Stubbins (two), Billy Liddell (two), Jack Balmer and Willie Fagan fishing for goals with some fine netting, and although Billy Wardle converted a penalty, the home side couldn't reel the Reds in.

Nor could anyone else as Liverpool went on to catch a whopper – the First Division title.

Not until May 1990 did Liverpool win another away match 6-1 and this time Kenny Dalglish's Reds were already champions, having clinched an 18th league title a week earlier, when they were sent to Coventry on the final day of the season.

Kevin Gallacher put the Sky Blues ahead in the second minute but it was like poking a wasps' nest with a stick as by half-time it was 3-1 courtesy of Ian Rush and a John Barnes double. Ronny Rosenthal then weighed in with two either side of Barnes completing his hat-trick with his 28th goal of the season, his most prolific campaign in a red shirt.

'Digger' was also in the team for the next 6-1 victory witnessed by the travelling Kop, this time at Crystal Palace on the opening day of the 1994/95 season during Roy Evans' reign as manager.

Jan Molby, Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler had the newly-promoted Eagles flapping before half-time and despite two Rush goals and another from Macca, the boss wasn't happy that Chris Armstrong had pulled one back: "I'm a bit disappointed we lost a goal," he said. Later that season Liverpool beat Palace 1-0 in both legs of the League Cup semi-final before going on to beat Bolton at Wembley.

A couple of decades later, in 2015/16, Jürgen Klopp's Reds reached the League Cup and Europa League finals in a season when they also won 6-1 away from home, at Southampton in the League Cup fifth round.



Two for Rocket Ronny at Coventry City

Sadio Mane put the Saints ahead in the first minute, but a Daniel Sturridge double turned the game around before Divock Origi blasted home a hat-trick – his first Liverpool goals – and Jordon Ibe got another on a night when possibly the shortest-lived chant of all time was sung at St Mary's.

Adam Lallana had been getting stick from the home fans on his return to the South Coast but just as the travelling Kop had started to sing "Adam Lallana, he's winning 5-1" in response, Origi made it six, resulting in the chant being immediately upgraded to "Adam Lallana, he's winning 6-1."

His team-mates were winning 7-0 in Slovenia a little under two years later, making Klopp only the second Liverpool manager to have seen his team score six or more away from Anfield on three separate occasions.





Six at Southampton as Origi finds the net





LFC record away wins

Score	Year	Opponents	Competition	Manager
8-0	2000	Stoke City	League Cup	Houllier
7-0	1896	Burton Swifts	Division Two	McKenna
7-0	1896	Crewe Alexandra	Division Two	McKenna
7-0	2006	Birmingham City	FA Cup	Benitez
7-0	2017	NK Maribor	Champions League	Klopp
7-1	1991	Derby County	Division One	Moran
6-0	1968	Wolves	Division One	Shankly
6-0	1981	Exeter City	League Cup	Paisley
6-0	2002	Ipswich Town	Premier League	Houllier
6-0	2003	West Brom	Premier League	Houllier
6-0	2013	Newcastle United	Premier League	Rodgers
6-0	2016	Aston Villa	Premier League	Klopp
6-1	1946	Grimsby Town	Division One	Kay
6-1	1990	Coventry City	Division One	Dalglish
6-1	1994	Crystal Palace	Premier League	Evans
6-1	2015	Southampton	League Cup	Klopp


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NORTH WEST TONIGHT

Liverpool Under-23s away to Manchester United in an evening Premier League 2 encounter


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125 YEARS



Premier League 2 is the new Under-23 competition that's replaced the U21 Premier League from last season, with a greater focus on technicality, physicality and intensity to bring players as close to first-team experience as possible, and up to three 'over-age' outfield players per side also allowed. Liverpool and Manchester United are two of the 12 teams in the league's top division and they recently met at United's Leigh Sports Village Stadium in front of over 4,500 spectators.



Liverpool came into the Monday-night match top of the table with 18 points from the seven games completed, with United at the other end on five points. LFC's strong starting XI featured Danny Ings, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Marko Grujic and Jon Flanagan, but it was young midfielder Ovie Ejaria who opened the scoring for coach Neil Critchley's team after 14 minutes. Ben Woodburn provided the assist as Ejaria skipped past his marker to find the bottom corner of the net.





Although Liverpool were the form team and dominated the first half – with Alexander-Arnold going close when teed up by Ings in the box – United responded after the break and on 61 minutes they equalised when striker James Wilson just beat Reds goalkeeper Kamil Grabara with a bobbled finish. But Grujic soon restored Liverpool's advantage by heading down and into the net from Woodburn's left-sided corner ten minutes later. Could the visitors now extend their lead?

MANCHESTER UNITED V LIVERPOOL FC

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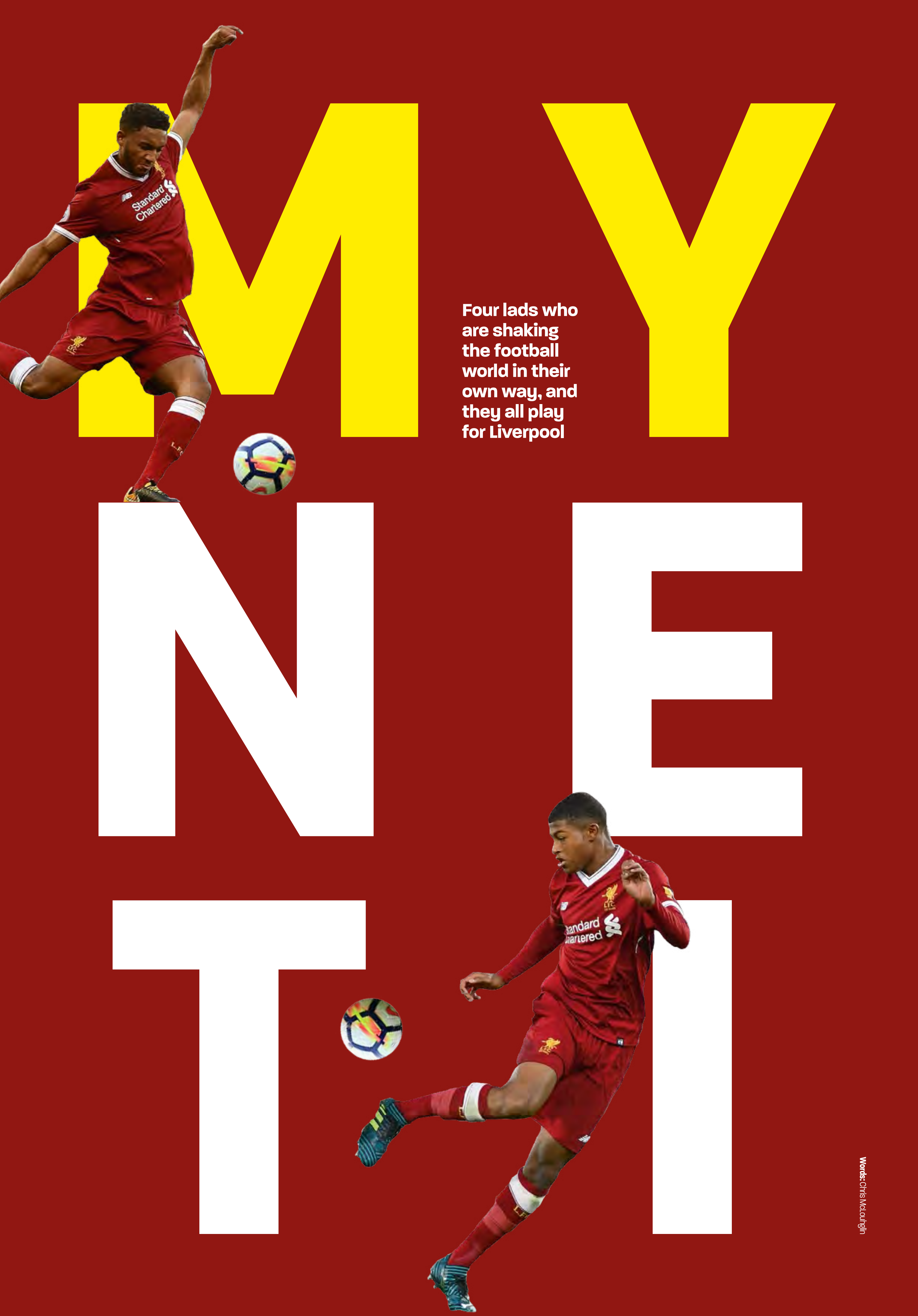
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TRY



They could and did, when Harry Wilson broke through and drove a fierce shot beyond United keeper Kieran O'Hara. At the other end Grabara made two smart saves while Liverpool's Ings was denied by a goal-line clearance. It ended 3-1, a seventh win from eight games which moved the Reds five points clear of Everton at the top. The team: Grabara, Alexander-Arnold, Flanagan, Masterson, Whelan, Grujic, Woodburn, Virtue (Brannagan 73), Ings, Ejaria, Wilson (Adekanye 86).



Four lads who are shaking the football world in their own way, and they all play for Liverpool

Words: Chris McLoughlin


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GOMEZ
CLUB AND COUNTRY

AGE: 20 **POSITION:** Defender **SIGNED FROM:** Charlton Athletic (2015)

SEASON SO FAR: Now fully recovered from long-term injury, Joe has already made more appearances for Liverpool FC in the 2017/18 campaign than he did in the previous two seasons combined.

His first Premier League start under Jürgen Klopp along with a Champions League debut came in August and although he was sent off late on against Sevilla at Anfield in September, he's been first-choice right-back for league games in the absence of Nathaniel Clyne.

His performances have also escalated his international career. Appointed England Under-21 captain earlier this season, he received his first call-up to the England senior squad for the November friendlies against Germany and Brazil with manager Gareth Southgate viewing him as a centre-back in a three-man Three Lions defence.

NEED TO KNOW: Joe was one of two Liverpool players – Dominic Solanke being the other – shortlisted for the 2017 European Golden Boy award. It was won by PSG's Kylian Mbappe with Barcelona's Ousmane Dembele voted as runner-up.

GARETH SOUTHGATE: "Joe's a great personality and I've had good feedback from Aidy [Boothroyd, U21s boss]. I'm pleased to work with him again. He's a centre-back. A back-three is perfect for him. He's quick, athletic and can use the ball."

JOE SAYS: "It has obviously been a dream of mine since I was a kid to represent my country at senior level. It was a surprise. I wasn't expecting the call-up but it was great news for me and my family, all of those close to me and it is a dream-come-true. It means a great deal for me personally."





ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GOALS

AGE: 19 **POSITION:** Defender **SIGNED FROM:** LFC Academy

SEASON SO FAR: To have scored more Champions League goals for Liverpool than Reds marksmen Daniel Sturridge and Sadio Mane combined tells you what an impact Alexander-Arnold has had already in just his second season as a first-team player.

Converted from midfielder to right-back, the teenage Scouser has been first-choice in Europe and has found the net twice with his brilliant free-kick opening the scoring in the Champions League qualifier away to Hoffenheim and then his deflected shot becoming the seventh of seven that the Reds struck away to NK Maribor.

Trent also made his England Under-21 debut in September having been a regular for England Under-19s.

NEED TO KNOW: In scoring against Hoffenheim he became the third-youngest Liverpool player to net on his Euro debut after Michael Owen (in 1997) and David Fairclough (in 1975).

JÜRGEN KLOPP: "Well I have to say for an 18-year-old who has the courage to take a free-kick like that it is rather exciting and interesting for me! I told him he had to do it. I told him because I watched him many times for the Under-23s last season and he took the free-kicks."

TRENT SAYS: "It's always a good day when you score your first Champions League goal. A positive side to my game is attacking and I try to do that as much as possible. We are always really hungry for goals."


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WOODBURN
WELSH WIZARD

AGE: 18 **POSITION:** Midfielder/forward **SIGNED FROM:** LFC Academy

SEASON SO FAR: Although he's only made one first-team appearance this campaign, in the Carabao Cup, he's captained Liverpool Under-19s to the top of the table in their UEFA Youth League group and became an international sensation for Wales in September when he struck the winner in a 1-0 World Cup qualifier win against Austria in Cardiff aged just 17.

The Welsh fans immediately took Ben to their hearts, devoting a chant to him – to the tune of David Bowie's Starman – while Hollywood star David Hasselhoff took to Twitter to congratulate him on his "nice goal."

NEED TO KNOW: He became LFC's youngest goalscorer when netting against Leeds at Anfield and in 2017 he became his country's second-youngest scorer with that strike against Austria. Only Gareth Bale has found the net at a younger age.

CHRIS COLEMAN: "We know Ben's got the capacity to open a defence up but we have to protect him and give him guidance.

"He's used to working with really good defenders every day at Liverpool but there's nothing that prepares you for a 90 minutes out there, it's completely different.

"He's very young and we have to take it slow unless we're forced to and then we'll have to be careful."

BEN SAYS: "Obviously it is nerve-wracking coming into any squad but the [Wales] players really welcomed me and helped me to feel at home.

"The manager said when I came on to enjoy yourself and help the team as best you can and hopefully I did that. It was a dream-come-true to make my debut and score a goal, but I'm just happy that we got the three points."





BREWSTER

YOUNG LION

AGE: 17 **POSITION:** Forward **SIGNED FROM:** Chelsea (2015)

SEASON SO FAR: On fire! Rhian made headlines around the world when he netted eight goals to win the Golden Boot as England triumphed in the Under-17s World Cup in India.

He got hat-tricks against USA and Brazil in the quarters and semi before scoring the first of England's five goals as Spain were beaten 5-2 in the final.

Fast-tracked from Liverpool's Under-18s to the Under-23s last season, he's netted three in six appearances for Neil Critchley's side this term and could yet become the first player born this millennium to make a first-team appearance for Liverpool FC.

NEED TO KNOW: Still aged only 17, Brewster has yet to make his first-team debut for Liverpool but was on the bench against Crystal Palace in April and scored a hat-trick in a behind-closed-doors first-team friendly against Accrington Stanley in November 2016, which was also Joe Gomez's comeback game.

STEVE COOPER [ENGLAND UNDER-17S MANAGER]: "Rhian is a goalscorer but he is more than that. He is a fantastic character. If you see the way Rhian speaks to the rest of the players in the dressing-room about the service he is getting then it says a lot about him.

"It is an amazing achievement to score a hat-trick in a quarter-final and a semi-final. I am not normally one to talk about individuals but to do that needs a special mention."

RHIAN SAYS: "If I had to choose one particular way to score I'd probably go for a close-range header or a scruffy effort because those goals are about having the instinct to be in the right place at the right time.

"I think I've always had that [goalscoring instinct] since I was younger. When I started playing football I was good at putting away chances when I didn't have to think too much."




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125 YEARS
VON
ompany for women

OUR GEM

Gemma Bonner, the 20th person to captain Liverpool Football Club 100 times – and the first female to achieve the milestone – reflects on this new age of women's football

You must be delighted to have reached the 100-game milestone as captain...
It's an achievement that I'm extremely proud of. I remember coming to the club in 2012 and I was ready for a new challenge.

For the five years that I've been here, the club has become a big part of my family. I love the club and supported it growing up. Given that we don't play that many games in women's football, to play 100 games and be the first person to captain Liverpool Ladies that many times is a special achievement.

We understand that you initially turned down the captaincy...
I was still young when I signed, only 21 years old, and I initially said no. There were a lot of players in the LIverpool team who were much more experienced than me, such as Whitney Engen and Fara Williams, and I just didn't think that I was necessarily the best person for the job.

Our manager at the time, Matt Beard, said: 'See how you feel in pre-season because I want you to be the captain'. I had a think about it and ended up taking the role. I think I've grown into it over the past five years. I'm still learning now but it's been a great experience. It's made me push myself out of my comfort zone and that has helped me develop both as a player and as a person.

Have you had to change as a result of the captaincy?
I've never tried to change the person I am, on or off the pitch. I've probably always naturally had a caring side and I've been there for players if they need me. It can be a hard job at times, you are kind of taking on other people's problems, if you like, but you have to look after yourself as well.

Over the past five years I've learnt how to manage not just everybody else but how to not let the role affect me as well. There are hard days, but don't get me wrong there are some pretty good days as well – and they far outweigh the bad days.

You won the league title in 2013 and 2014 but other clubs are investing more and more in their women's teams now...
We set the standard in wrestling the title away from Arsenal who had dominated the women's game in this country for a long time.

I think that probably contributed to a shift in the women's football mindset. It had always been Arsenal and everyone expected it to be Arsenal for so long. But for us to come in and do what we did changed a lot of perceptions, and off the back of us doing that in 2013 and 2014 all of a sudden other teams pushed it on even further. Nowadays Man City, Chelsea and Arsenal have got big budgets and a lot of exposure.

But I think for us as a club, Liverpool's never been about money in terms of the women's team or the men's either. It's a very traditional club and so we've got to make our identity come to the forefront: you're not coming here for money, you're coming here to play for the badge, and you should be proud to play for Liverpool.



Unlike many Women's Super League teams there seems to be a strong emphasis at Liverpool on bringing young talent through too...

You've definitely got to look at young players. We've seen a couple come through. Niamh Charles is an exceptionally talented youngster who's already had a lot of game-time in the first-team and, for us, players like her coming through the centre of excellences and development squads are important.

The time that's invested in them when they are younger is paying off and hopefully we can continue to see the influx of young players coming through. That's a big thing now, not just in men's football but in women's football too: you want to see the young English players coming through and doing well.

If you look in the younger age groups we've got quite a few players in the youth international age groups and as a club that can only hold us in good stead for the future.

Do you always make a point of looking out for those younger players?

I have a lot of contact with the younger players. I probably look back on my own experiences and try to learn from how I felt at the time.

I was lucky enough to be in the first-team environment at Leeds aged 16 and I was surrounded by experienced players who helped me out a lot. I've probably learnt from them in terms of how to deal with things. I want to try to use that experience to pass things on to the young players now.

In my role as captain there is a responsibility to try and nurture the young players. In women's football the gap from youth football to open-age can be a struggle with no real in-between. Trying to bridge that gap is the hardest thing: trying to get the young players through because they go from Under-16s football to playing against world-class players in the first-team environment.

It's a big change at that age and, as I say, I've been in that situation and experienced it. So I just want to try and help make the transition as easy as possible.



FOR THE FIVE YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE THE CLUB HAS BECOME PART OF MY FAMILY

Long-serving LFC captains

473 Steven Gerrard
417 Ron Yeats
337 Emlyn Hughes
267 Alex Raisbeck
262 Donald Mackinlay
205 Sami Hyypia
195 Alan Hansen
157 Tommy Smith
147 Graeme Souness
147 Phil Thompson
129 Jackie Balmer
138 Thomas Bradshaw
126 Billy Liddell
122 Ephraim Longworth
113 Ian Rush
111 John Barnes
106 Tom Cooper
104 Phil Taylor
103 James Jackson
101 Gemma Bonner

Women's football has come on in leaps and bounds in the past decade – what's it felt like to be on the inside of it all?

When I was growing up I didn't go and watch women's football because I didn't really know who to go and watch. I played for a girls' team but it wasn't until I was fourteen or fifteen that I'd watch the women's first-team at Leeds.

Now when you see the younger players, the Under-8s, Under-10s that



are coming to watch us, they tell you that they want to play for Liverpool Ladies one day and want to be like you.

For us it's a pretty special feeling that we're in the position that we are now. We're very lucky to do what we do here at Liverpool Ladies and other sides, especially considering that for us growing up it was never really a career – it was more of a dream than a reality.

To now have the opportunity to do what we have never done for money but what we've always done because we love the game, and on a full-time basis, is a great feeling.

To show young players that things can happen for them, that if they work hard they can be in this position, is one of the best parts of the game for me.

Seeing the little girls coming up and telling you they want to be like you motivates you to want to get better and better.

> **WE'RE VERY LUCKY TO DO WHAT WE DO – GROWING UP IT WAS JUST A DREAM**


Congratulations from boss Scott Rogers and club CEO Peter Moore

And that career path is a tangible one now, especially with a move towards a fully professional FA WSL 1 next season...
Each year the game's continuing to grow, both on and off the pitch. The Women's Super League came in a few years back and we've seen it go from strength to strength each year, and there's the knock-on effect on the international stage too in terms of the England team getting higher rankings [currently third, up two places, behind the United States and Germany in the official FIFA table].

I think now the game is at the stage where it needs to be pushed on to the next level. You're coming off the back of the Olympics, then the World Cup and the Euros and it's only continuing to grow, but there's still a long way to go. We've been professional at Liverpool for almost four years now and it's still in the early stages.

There's still parts of the game that are in transition from semi-professional to professional and that was never going to happen overnight. It was going to take five or ten years, but I think now we're coming into the latter stages of that. It's time to push the game on and that's happening now with the developments with the new league. Hopefully there will be more full-time teams but at the same time it's sad because you can see what happened to Notts County [the Magpies folded earlier this year due to financial difficulties].

The important thing is the league has to be sustainable and there's a fine line at the moment between that sustainability and pushing it too far. But it's great to see the growth of the teams and there's certainly a lot more options now for young girls to play, and you see more and more coverage in the media. Social media's been massive in terms of spreading the word about women's football and hopefully that can continue to grow into the new league structure.

Team GB: Gemma's top five Liverpool Ladies moments...



1 Winning the FA WSL title 2013: the first one was a special one, especially taking it off Arsenal after they'd been the dominant team in women's football for so long. For me to be a part of the team was a special moment.

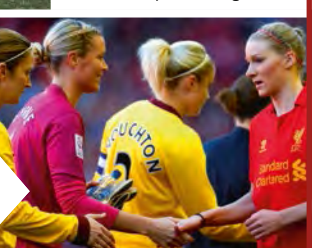
2 Winning the FA WSL title 2014: no-one expected us to defend it the following year. The team that we had in those couple of years was fantastic, some world-class players, and it was exciting sharing the same pitch with them at Liverpool. We had a real belief and our motto was 'Together We Are Limitless'.





3 UEFA Women's Champions League debut 2013: we were drawn against Swedish team Linkopings. We beat them at home but lost away. But I was honoured to lead Liverpool out in the Champions League.

4 Playing at Anfield: in 2013 we played an FA Women's Cup semi-final against Arsenal here. We didn't produce the performance we wanted and lost 2-1, but it was a dream to run out at Anfield.





5 One hundred games as Liverpool Ladies captain: it's an honour I am extremely proud of, and to mark it with a 6-0 win over Sheffield was the perfect outcome.

Interview William Hughes


Respect
AVON
5

WHAT'S THE JOB OF AN UNDER-23S COACH?

Neil Critchley is about to tell us, in this insightful and illuminating interview, as his team sets the pace at the top of Premier League 2





The team has made a bright start to the season – you must be pleased with the first few months of the campaign?
I've thoroughly enjoyed it from day one of pre-season. The attitude and the application of the players has been first-class.

I think that the success that they've had in the games and how well they've been playing has been a direct result of how they've been training. We've got a good group of players and when they challenge and compete against each other, they raise the standards themselves and I think we've reaped the benefits of that on the pitch so far this season.

You switched to coach the U23s after a spell with the 18s, some of whom are now playing at the higher age-level...
It's been really good. Some of the players that I am working with now, I worked with previously, so to see them twelve to eighteen months down the line and a little bit older and a bit more mature is great. They're developing well and it has been brilliant on a personal level for me to be around those lads again.

You often have senior players at your disposal too – is it a challenge not knowing who will be available for selection until relatively late on?
That can happen but it's not a problem. That's something I was used to at Under-18s level too because sometimes members of that team would be called up to the 23s.

The role of the Under-23s here is to facilitate the first-team and its players and if we can help them to gain fitness or keep a rhythm of playing, then that's what we're here to do. Hopefully we've done that so far while also providing an opportunity for our younger players too. It's a challenge but a good one.

The influence of the senior players must be important upon the younger members of the squad...
I think it's testament to the type of characters that the senior players are, that you can see the traits the manager and the first-team staff like to see in their players whenever they've 'dropped down' and played for us or been in and around our training sessions.

The way they apply themselves is first-class and it is a great example to our younger players to see what a professional looks like, how they train


Irish international Corey Whelan leads out the 23s against Spurs at Anfield; the Reds won 4-2

and conduct themselves and what they give on a daily basis. That's why they are at the top.

One example is striker Danny Ings who has played regularly for the Under-23s so far this season...

On a personal level it's been great for me to spend a bit of time with Danny and get to know him a little bit. He's a top person as well as a top professional. He's obviously had a horrible time with injuries but he's playing regularly now for us, gaining his confidence back and improving his fitness with every game.

No-one deserves more luck than him and if we can help him to get that opportunity to hopefully one day get back in our first-team and play at Anfield again, then we'll be delighted for him.

Corey Whelan has taken on the captaincy this season...

Last season's captain Harry Wilson was training full-time at Melwood when we joined back up together for training in July and then he picked up an injury. We thought that if Harry had been fit he'd have been either in and around the first-team squad or possibly gone out on loan if the manager and Harry had thought that was right.

We didn't see him for probably the first two months, so in the meantime we obviously had to choose somebody to be the captain. It wasn't a case of taking the captaincy off Harry, it was just circumstance and so we decided that Corey Whelan would lead the team this season.

He's done very well so far...

Yes, he has. I've known Corey from a very young age. I had the pleasure of working with him when he was eight, nine, ten at Crewe and then he came to Liverpool. When I joined Liverpool myself, he was an Under-16s player, so it's been great for me to see Corey's development and I believe he's making big strides.

I think the captaincy is important to him. It's helping him develop his leadership skills which I think in turn will help him to improve his all-round game. His performances so far have been excellent.

It must be a challenge for him leading a team that often includes experienced senior professionals...

It's a test for him and that's the reason he's captain because he has to show belief in himself, leadership qualities, and personality. If he's got Jon Flanagan next to him or Danny Ings or Marko Grujic and someone's maybe not doing something quite right or they've done something well, you've got to be able to praise or cajole and pull someone out a little bit. It takes a bit of personality to do that.

I think that's something that will help Corey in his development as a player so that's the reason why he's the captain this season.

Results aren't everything in academy football but obviously winning is a good habit to have and develop...

The closer the players get to the first-team, the more important the results become. The winning, knowing how to win, understanding how to manage and see out games is hugely important.

We're at Liverpool and we're expected to win. You're expected to win every time you pull the badge on. We want to win games but we also have to keep an eye on the players' pathway and give them the right opportunities at the right time.


Neil with Tim Jenkins, head of development analysis



I can be a little bit more flexible with team selection and personnel or give someone a little bump in the road with their development because I'm developing them for the long-term. The results aren't the be-all-and-end-all but they are very important.

Someone said to me the other week it's 100 per cent development and 99 per cent winning and that's right. As soon as that goes the other way then we wouldn't be doing the right thing by the players and that would be a wrong way of looking at the 23s.

While the 19s are playing in the UEFA Youth League you have a couple of games coming up against overseas opposition in the Premier League International Cup...

The UEFA Youth League at Under-19s level is a fantastic competition and it's great for our younger players to go and play in those games. We've been to Moscow and then to Slovenia and they have offered different challenges.

The pitch at Maribor was a bit dry and bobbly and they were playing quite a defensive type of game, so in that instance you've got to find ways of breaking them down. Spartak Moscow away was played on Astroturf and there was a partisan crowd, and then when we played Sevilla at Tranmere they were very aggressive and came after us. Those kind of situations are great for coaches and players because you've got to find different ways of beating these opponents.

The Under-23s get to play two foreign teams in the Premier League International Cup in Sparta Prague and PSV Eindhoven which will be good tests for us. Again, when you are hoping to play for Liverpool you are going to be expected to play in the Champions League and we've got to test ourselves against the best players and opposition all around Europe.

Youngster Ben Woodburn recently signed a long-term contract with the club – that must be all you can ask for as an Academy coach?

It shows the club have got faith and trust in him but we will just carry on the same. We won't change our approach towards Ben and he knows that he's got a lot of work ahead of him. But he's a humble, hard-working boy and the contract won't change him. Fame, money, whatever, he'll still be the same – it wouldn't matter to Ben if he was on a six-week contract. He would still work the same.

We'll make sure he won't lose that because that's what makes him the player he is.



Ben Woodburn: the feet are magic but they're also firmly on the ground

A number of the younger players train at Melwood with Pep Lijnders as part of the Talent Group – that must be important for them?

It's great for those players to get an opportunity to train at Melwood. The relationship is very good between the first-team and the Academy and we've been there ourselves as a group this season and managed to play a couple of games there in front of the manager and the first-team staff so that's been brilliant for us.

The group that Pep takes is an opportunity for those boys to be around the first-team players because they are often training at similar times and obviously there is always something special about going to Melwood. I'm sure the players get a lift just by going there. It's a great experience for them.

If you could have a wish-list for the rest of the season, what would you like to see?

The ultimate aim for any 23s team is to get players into the first-team and get them into the squad on a regular basis. So when you see people like Trent [Alexander-Arnold] and Ben [Woodburn] you always want the next ones – the Ovie Ejarias, the Harry Wilsons – can they make that step up? Can they be knocking on the manager's door?

We just have to keep driving the standards and keep talking to the players about what we think they need to improve upon to get them there, and if that is playing for the 23s or going out on loan, then so be it. We don't set up to win leagues, that's not my remit, but we want to be successful as well along the way. And if you've got good players you'll win more games than you lose.

I think that gives you an indication of the quality of players that we've got. We win a lot of games and if the players are being successful, they've got a better chance of being noticed. We just concentrate on our process, improving our training every day and improving the individuals. That sounds simple but we stick to our beliefs and we're very clear on that.

You've worked with every age group during your career – how are you finding working with the 23s?

I'm really enjoying it. I get great support from the staff around me from Alex [Inglethorpe] down to Mick [Garrity], Jenks [head of development analysis Tim Jenkins] and Mozza [goalkeeping coach Mark Morris]. They're brilliant and they've got more experience than me of working at this level so I lean on them heavily.

I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of working with the 23s. It is slightly different from the 18s, just because you're working with older players and their thinking is slightly different than the 18s.

They've not just left school, they are now getting towards the stage where they are earning a living and having to find a career in football. We hope that's here at Liverpool.

It's my job – and our job as a club – to provide the boys with the right opportunity and give them the right pathway.

That's the job of an U23s coach.

Interview: William Hughes

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Neil Mellor

Trent and Joe both bring something different to the full-back role

Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez have been given opportunities at right-back this season due to Nathaniel Clyne's injury. Both are proving what they are capable of.

I saw Trent play a lot of games at Academy-level and it was clear he was a real bright prospect coming through. He's a local boy, a talented boy, and although he is still learning the game he has shown he deserves to be part of the first-team set-up despite only recently turning 19.

One of his biggest strengths is his pace, that allows him to get both forward and back, but his delivery is also very good. Alexander-Arnold's crosses into the penalty area are a real asset to his game and for Liverpool something that our forwards can thrive upon.

Trent is an intelligent footballer. He can play in different positions – he came on in an attacking right-wing role against Everton last season and almost scored – and his flexibility means right-back may not be his usual or best position long-term.

Gomez is more defensive-minded than Alexander-Arnold. He's less adventurous as a right-back but when you've got wide players like Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain ahead of you, that can help the team defensively.

It's credit to Joe's performances for Liverpool that he has been called up by England's senior squad having already been named as captain of the Under-21s earlier this year. To go from playing Premier League football to Champions League and international football shows progression for a lad who is only 21 next May.

The World Cup is just around the corner and if Gomez continues to perform well for Liverpool he could be in contention to go to Russia in the summer for a tournament most players would want to be involved in during their careers.

England aren't realistic candidates to win the World Cup, but playing for them will certainly help Joe learn, especially when he has to face top-class opponents. His flexibility to play centre-half or on the right-hand side of a three makes him a valuable player to have in a your squad, but I like him at right-back.

I want to see full-backs who can defend and protect their centre-halves by providing cover. We seem to be in an era where full-backs are expected to bomb forward, create chances and provide width. But if you've got the right sort of pacy attacking players in front of a solid right-back like Gomez you'll have a better defensive balance – something we've lacked at times.

In the past, right-back would have been a bit of a problem position with Clyne out injured, but between the pair of them they've ensured it no longer is. Trent has tended to play more in Europe, Joe in the league, and I think Jürgen Klopp has rotated them because they are both young players who are adapting to first-team football at a huge football club.

Giving them a breather also maintains their hunger to impress when they do start, although I'm sure both players would tell you they would prefer to start every game to gain consistency, maintain their form and develop an understanding with their team-mates.

Another young player who will be chomping at the bit to play first-team football for Liverpool is Rhian Brewster following his goalscoring exploits for England in the Under-17 World Cup. To score two hat-tricks and win the Golden Ball was an outstanding return from the 17-year-old.

Rhian has progressed very well over the last 12 months or so. Mick Beale brought him in from Chelsea and the coaching staff at the Academy have done a great job in developing him. Not only is Brewster in a good environment, he has a great attitude.

Whenever I see him play he has a smile on his face and he also has a goalscoring instinct. Rhian always looks a threat. He has pace, he has movement plus a good work-rate and the ability to finish. It makes him a big prospect.

I was delighted with what Brewster achieved with England but not surprised because I've seen his quality for Liverpool. He will also be well-aware that he is at a club that gives young players with the right attitude and necessary ability a pathway to the first team.

If Rhian maintains his hunger, listens to his coaches, keeps learning and continues to progress, his opportunity will come in the same way that it has for Joe Gomez and Trent Alexander-Arnold, but he must be patient in the meantime.

Follow Neil on Twitter **@NeilMellor33**.



Joe Gomez with England boss Gareth Southgate


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Children tuck in to healthy food at a Foundation event. From which German club did head of nutrition Mona Nemmer join LFC in 2016? **Answer on page 98**

All the latest news as the club and its players strive to make a difference on and off the pitch

CLUB





BOSS LADS



Liverpool FC has renewed its partnership with fashion label Hugo Boss as the club's official formalwear supplier for the third consecutive season – and the players certainly look the part in their suits for 2017/18.

Spirit of Sixty Five

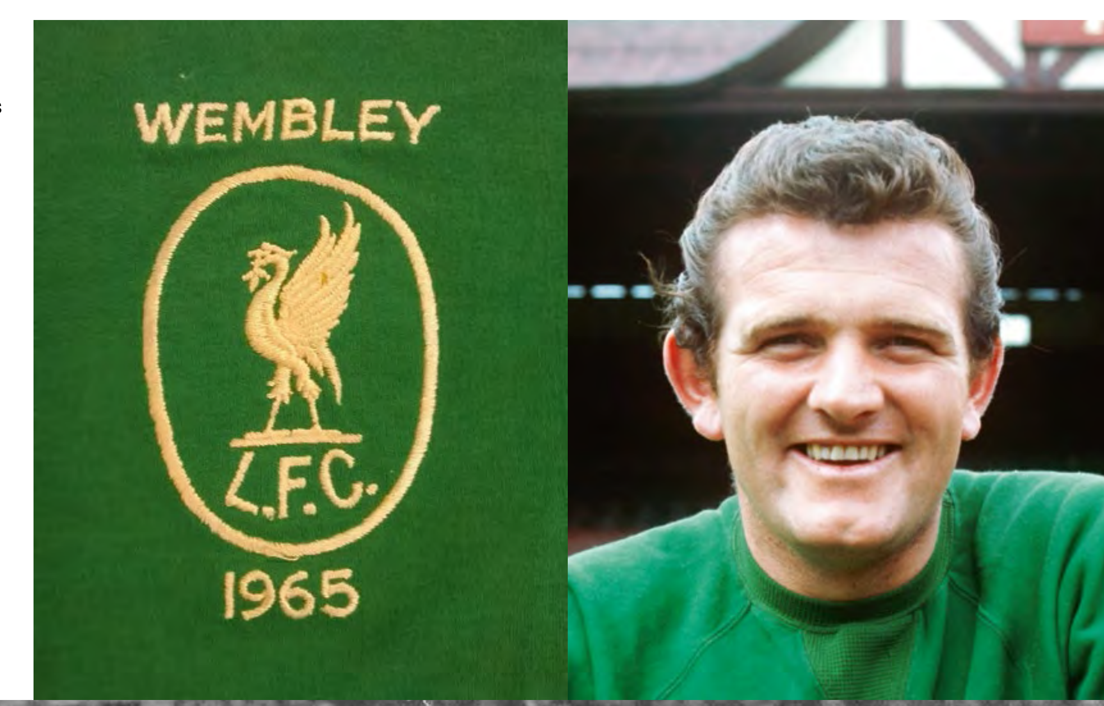
A true piece of Liverpool Football Club history has found a new home at the club's museum

There's been a magnificent new addition to The Liverpool FC Story museum just recently: goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence's 1965 FA Cup final shirt, donated by the man himself and his son Stephen.

That 2-1 win over Leeds United was, of course, Liverpool's first-ever FA Cup triumph, and Tommy played in every tie on the road to Wembley. He also won two top-flight titles with the Reds, in 1963/64 and 1965/66 – a true Liverpool legend.

As the last line of defence in Bill Shankly's first great Reds team, he was affectionately known as 'The Flying Pig' for his spectacular airborne saves and the speed at which he'd rush off his line to thwart opposition attacks – a habit which also saw him described as modern football's first 'sweeper-keeper'.

Football author Jonathon Wilson revealed in an earlier issue of this magazine: "Apparently it came from





an idea that Shankly had. During five-a-sides in training Tommy was usually on the same team as the manager, Bob Paisley, Reuben Bennett and Ronnie Moran. For whatever reason he often ended up coming way out of goal and passing the ball around – and their team always won, even though they were slower and older than their opponents. Shankly saw that one of the reasons they were successful was because Tommy provided an extra passing option. He decided to try it in a proper game.

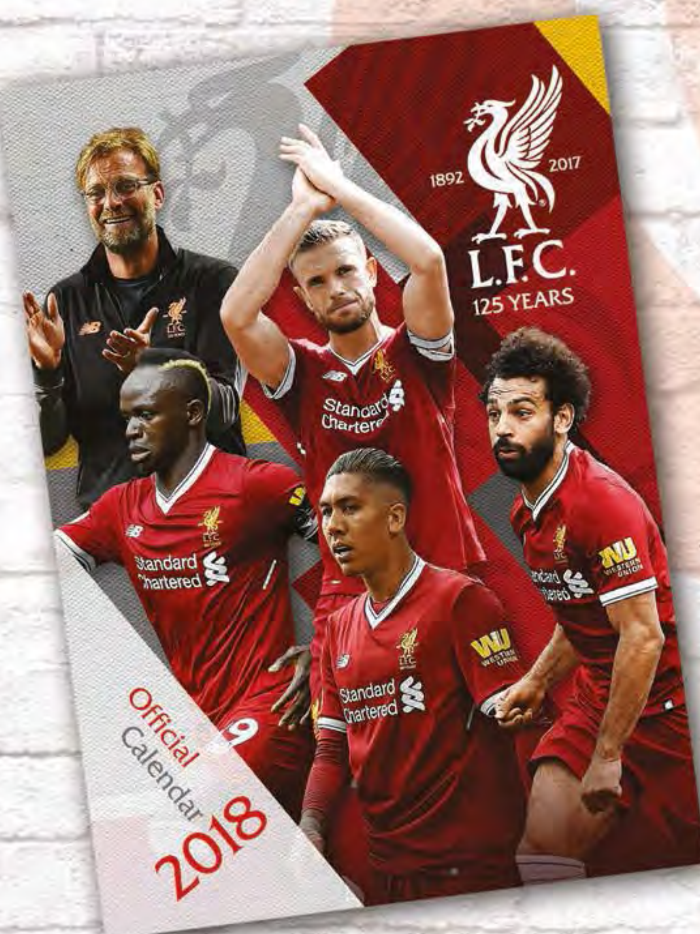
"When they first did, the crowd at Anfield was screaming at Tommy to get back on the line – they thought Lawrence had lost the plot – and there was one occasion when he got beaten by a lob from about 50 yards. Lawrence felt like it was a disaster but Shankly's view was that it may have cost them that goal but it earned them 20 at the other end each year.

"Slowly the supporters saw that it was an incredibly effective way of playing and it continued through to the modern football era."

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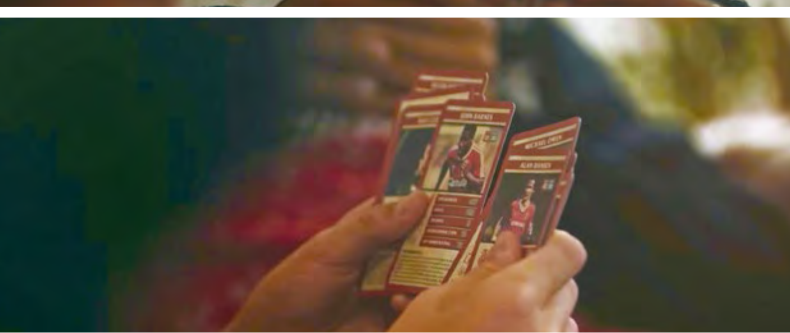
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YULE NEVER WALK ALONE

Daniel Sturridge makes sure Liverpool FC kick off the festive season in style

As the nights get longer and the days shorter, how about an LFC Christmas to keep us all in good cheer – off as well as on the pitch?

Just recently the club unveiled its range of tinsel-wrapped gifts and experiences that will whet the appetite of any Reds fan. To confirm: it's totally boss, as Daniel Sturridge, who made an appearance at Anfield on the day, will testify.

Guests were treated to the online LFC store's new Christmas film, featuring first-teamers Trent Alexander-Arnold (in reindeer antlers), Nathaniel Clyne, Ben Woodburn, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Joe Gomez, Alberto Moreno and Roberto Firmino pulling crackers and opening gifts with Reds fans young and old, while LFC legends Robbie Fowler and John Barnes served up the mince pies.

One fab present that doesn't quite fit into a festive stocking is the all-new LFC Stadium Tour, looking the seasonal part with Christmas trees and sleigh bells and offering an immersive LFC experience – hold up your phone to a shirt in the dressing-room, for example, and you can interact with the player in question. Each visitor gets to take the tour at their own pace and to their own tastes.

Talking of which, Anfield's hospitality has always been exceptional and at this time of year the all-new suites in the Main Stand are cooking up some amazing Xmas cuisine.

Daniel told guests he was a fan of the new LFC jumper collection and couldn't wait to take on friends and family at one favourite activity: "Monopoly! It's imperative around Christmas time, and when the board games come out in the Sturridge household it's always competitive!"

For a few highlights from the Xmas range turn to page 96, and for the full collection visit **store.liverpoolfc.com**.

Words: Ryan Dobney



Who fancies Monopoly?

THAT WINNING FEELING

From kit launch to cosmetics deal: why Liverpool FC were victorious at top industry awards



Groundbreaking girls

Liverpool FC is celebrating a number of off-the-pitch victories after scooping awards at two prestigious ceremonies.

The club's 2017/18 home kit campaign, *Pure LFC*, scooped the Best Sport Campaign at the Northern Marketing Awards held in Manchester, after also being nominated in the Best Retail and Best Business to Customer categories.

The unique and emotional campaign saw four supporters receive a new home kit personally delivered by one of their LFC idols, putting fans at the heart of the campaign and acknowledging the incredible contribution they make to the club.

Elsewhere the club also took home a number of awards at the Football Business Awards in London.

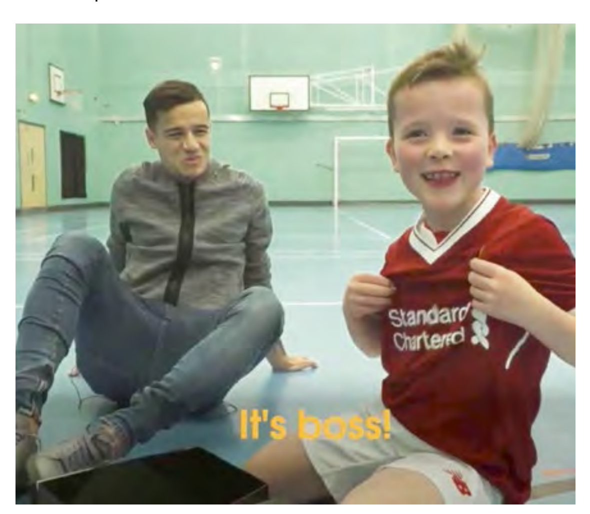
The link-up between Liverpool Ladies and Avon – the first female-focused brand sponsorship of a premier ladies' football team – was awarded gold with the Best Partnership accolade.

The deal saw the women's beauty and cosmetic company become the first independent shirt sponsor to grace the front of the Reds shirt, with LFC managing director Billy Hogan calling it "a landmark deal which aims to inspire women and continues to break boundaries for women in sport."

LFC's community programme Red Neighbours, which aims to make a difference to people who live in and around the Anfield neighbourhood, won silver for Best Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme.

LFC Foundation and Nivea Men's collaboration on the LFC Legends Charity Match, played against Real Madrid *Leyendas* at Anfield last March, also took silver scooped a silver award in the Best Brand Activation involving Football category, alongside Best Non-Matchday Use of a Venue for Anfield's first-ever e-sports event – when the redeveloped Main Stand concourse was transformed to a state-of-the-art e-sports arena as Konami brought the PES League EU Season 2 Regional Final to Liverpool.

Peter Moore, the club's CEO, said: "We're absolutely delighted to have been recognised, and to take home five awards, rewarding the hard work of various departments across the club, is fantastic. Our fans were at the heart of many of these campaigns, programmes and events, and we're immensely proud that the special relationship we share with them has been acknowledged in this way."



LFC and a living wage

Liverpool FC has confirmed that all of its staff and workers will be paid the real living wage as a minimum from the start of the next financial year, June 2018. The voluntary commitment comes following extensive discussions with The Living Wage Foundation and Steve Rotheram, mayor of the Liverpool city region, over recent months. CEO Peter Moore says: "We hope that this development demonstrates how highly we value all of those who work for Liverpool Football Club in whatever capacity that may be."



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Keny delivers...again!

IT'S THE KING CALLING

Kenny Dalglish drops off food donations ahead of Anfield matchday for Red Neighbouurs

Having an Anfield stand named after him has certainly not changed Kenny Dalglish, with the Reds legend recently calling into St Andrews Community Network – a short distance from Anfield – to drop off a donation to the North Liverpool Foodbank.

Kenny joined staff volunteers from Liverpool FC who were on hand to help prepare food parcels for local residents in need, as the club encouraged fans to donate what they can on Anfield matchdays for people in crisis in the L4, L5 and L6 areas of the city.

As part of its dedication to tackle food poverty, LFC's community programme Red Neighbours is an advocate for local foodbanks. Throughout last season it facilitated the collection of over 3600kg on matchdays for North Liverpool Foodbank, which equates to 11,000 meals provided for families in and around Anfield.

This season during the month of October its main focus was food poverty and education, with a variety of activities and events taking place in the local community including breakfast and lunch-clubs at Anfield.

With collections at every Premier League matchday at Anfield, supporters can drop off any non-perishable food donations and toiletries at the collection points on Anfield Road next to the Family Park (open three hours before kick-off) and inside the new LFC Anfield Superstore (9am to 5.30pm).

Priority items include: UHT Milk; long-life juice or cordial; jar pasta/curry sauce; tinned meat; tinned vegetables; instant mash; rice-pudding/custard; jam; toiletries; cup-a-soup/noodles; washing tablets.

Dalglish meanwhile made it clear to LFC that the stand bearing his name had to be inclusive, and to this end he came up with the idea of the Kenny Dalglish Community Suite, housed within. It will be used by Red Neighbours with a focus on supporting the elderly, addressing food poverty, encouraging physical activity and creating memorable experiences for young people.

A spokesperson for FSG remarked: "Having provided so much joy on the pitch, it speaks volumes for Kenny that even though his playing days are now behind him his desire to make a positive difference on behalf of the people of Liverpool remains as strong as ever."


Kenny with the team



MONA'S RECIPE FOR

Head of nutrition serves up healthy treats while first-teamers visit local schools

Liverpool FC's Red Neighbours programme focuses on four key areas of need in and around the Anfield area: food poverty and education; support for the elderly community; encouraging a physically-active community; and creating memorable experiences for young people.

During October the main focus was food poverty and education, with a number of activities taking place in the local community. Among these was a healthy-eating masterclass at Melwood for a group of local schoolchildren.

The club's head of nutrition, Mona Nemmer, led the interactive session making smoothies and preparing and eating fruit and vegetables in a fun and inventive way – including edible food animals!

Children from three local schools – Anfield Road Primary, Pinehurst Primary and St Paul's Catholic Junior – spent time learning from Mona about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet and what the players eat to maintain maximum health and fitness.

Near to Melwood is Monksdown Primary School, where Ragnar Klavan and Marko Grujic visited young fans while Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, spoke to the pupils about life-skills such as integrity and truth.

Earlier this year Liverpool FC committed to players visiting local schools in and around the local area after autographs and pictures were stopped outside Melwood for health-and-safety reasons. This new scheme provides a safer environment for youngsters to collect autographs and allows even more local children to meet their heroes face to face.

In turn fellow first-teamers Georginio Wijnaldum and Jon Flanagan joined local children for the Red Neighbours PES tournament at the new Anfield Superstore.

Participants from Alsop High School, Notre Dame Catholic High School, Cardinal Heenan, the Academy Of St Francis Of Assisi and LFC Foundation Kicks took part in the competition, which was organised as




Goalie Danny Ward (below) does Premier League Kicks in Croxteth




The write stuff: Simon and Emre at Gwladys Street Primary

SUCCESS!





part of an initiative to create memorable experiences for young people. Alsop emerged victorious and took on Gini and Jon, who won on penalties with Wijnaldum scoring the winning spot-kick as himself!

It's been a busy time too for LFC Foundation, who invited Reds keeper Danny Ward to a Premier League Kicks session in Croxteth. The Welsh shot-stopper watched the fun, which included a skills-and-drills session and Zorb football, before answering questions in a Q&A.

Premier League Kicks has a long history of using the power of football to help hard-to-reach youngsters in some of the most high-need areas of the country, with LFC Foundation delivering nine sessions five days a week in Anfield, Croxteth, Toxteth, Wavertree and Wirral.

Also delivered by LFC Foundation is the Premier League Stars programme, and recently Simon Mignolet and Emre Can joined a group of local schoolchildren as they prepared for a writing competition on National Poetry Day. The pair were at Gwladys Street Primary School to help with creative writing before going head-to-head with pupils in a 'rhyme battle'.

The Writing Stars includes a free online resource for teachers and parents and uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire children to learn, be active and develop important life-skills.





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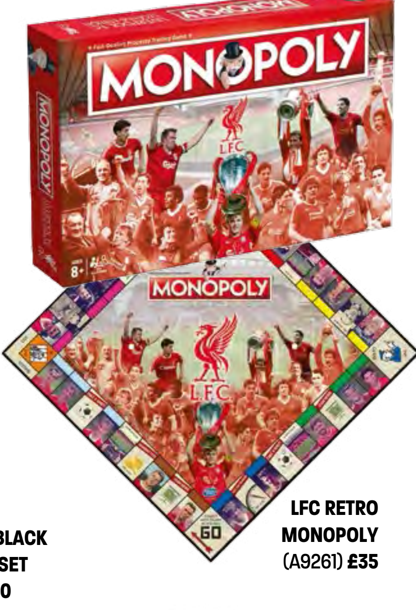
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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p9: Bill Shankly joined Liverpool FC as manager in December 1959; **FOOTBALL p27:** Mohamed Salah's prolific goalscoring start to his Reds career saw him take his tally to 12 with two in the 4-1 win at West Ham United in his 17th appearance; **CLUB p83:** Liverpool FC's head of nutrition Mona previously worked with the Germany U21s squad and joined us from Bayern Munich.



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